Oklahoma has the #1 incarceration rate in the world
Why?

1. It’s not crime
2. Oklahoma sends more people to prison
3. And keeps people in prison longer
Since 2000, crime has fallen across the country, including in Oklahoma. Unlike Oklahoma, the majority of states have done this with smaller and shrinking prison populations.
Oklahoma and national crime rates both fell around 30% since 2000.
Oklahoma’s imprisonment rate is 78% higher than average rate for all states.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Correctional Statistical Analysis Tool
In the last decade, 32 states have reduced both crime and imprisonment rates; Oklahoma has not.

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports and Bureau of Justice Statistics National Prisoner Series
Oklahoma sends more people to prison than other states, especially for non-violent crimes.
Oklahoma sends nearly 60% more people to prison per capita than the national average.
OK and TX have similar crime rates, but Oklahoma sends more than twice as many people to prison per capita for non-violent crimes.

Source: TX Department of Criminal Justice Statistical Report FY2017
Almost 8 in 10 women sent to prison in Oklahoma go for non-violent offenses, mostly drug crimes.
Research shows that prison does not make society safer. Sending people to prison may make them more, rather than less, likely to commit new crimes when they get out compared to people supervised in the community. And it comes at a huge cost to Oklahoma taxpayers, families, and communities.
LENGTH OF STAY

Oklahoma holds people in prison for longer than the national average, especially for non-violent crimes.
People in Oklahoma stay in prison far longer than the national average for drug and property crimes.

Median Length of Stay by Offense Type, Oklahoma Department of Corrections, FY 2018 vs. National Average, 2016

- **Property**: National average 13 months, Oklahoma 22 months
- **Drug**: National average 14 months, Oklahoma 25 months
- **Violent**: National average 29 months, Oklahoma 35 months

People in prison for common property crimes stay nearly twice as long in OK as the national average.

For commercial drug crimes, people in Oklahoma spend almost 60% longer in prison than the national average.

Research has shown these long stays in prison have little or no effect on recidivism when people come home. At the same time, these extra weeks, months, and years place emotional and financial burdens on the families of those incarcerated.
In summary

1. Oklahoma’s high incarceration rate is not caused by crime
2. Oklahoma sends more people to prison
3. And keeps people in prison longer… all without a commensurate public safety benefit and at great cost to Oklahoma taxpayers and families
THANK YOU

Questions?
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